

John Millard Tawes Oral History Interview—JFK #1, 3/1/1968
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John Millard Tawes (1894-1979) served as the Governor of Maryland from 1959 to 1967. This interview focuses on Tawes' impressions of John F. Kennedy (JFK), JFK's success in Maryland during the 1960 election, and the issue of race relations in Maryland during the Kennedy administration, among other issues.

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J. Millard Tawes
J. Millard Tawes

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Oral History Interview

with

JOHN MILLARD TAWES

March 1, 1968
Crisfield, Maryland

By Charles T. Morrissey

For the John F. Kennedy Library

HACKMAN: Well, why don't we just start off, Governor Tawes, if you can recall when you first met John Kennedy or came in contact with him.

TAWES: Well, to the best of my recollection, my first meeting with Senator Kennedy was on the occasion when the Democratic party in Maryland was holding an affair in the Emerson Hotel and U.S. Senator Kennedy was the speaker of the evening. I don't recall the exact purpose of the occasion, but it was a Democratic meeting and he made a very fine impression on those persons attending the dinner that evening. And during the days he was a U.S. Senator from Massachusetts in Washington, and because of that first meeting in Baltimore, he was invited many times to return to Maryland to speak to different groups such as the Hibernian Society, the Advertising Club of Baltimore, and many other groups. He was indeed a frequent visitor to Maryland.

At that time I was the comptroller of Maryland. In 1958 I was a candidate for governor on the Democratic ticket. Senator Kennedy at that time was interested in my campaign. We had a Republican governor at that time, and I think he was primarily interested in the state electing a Democratic governor. I'm not sure, but I think he came to Maryland to speak during that campaign. He was a candidate in 1960 for the presidency and, of course, he came to Maryland during that campaign. The latter part of '59, or it might have been in the

early part of 1960, while Senator Kennedy was making a strong bid at that time for the nomination for the presidency, I invited him to the Executive Mansion in Annapolis to meet with our leading Democrats such as our congressman, our Democratic national committeeman,

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our top elected officials of the state. He came for dinner that evening, and we had a very pleasant session with him. And at that time of the 1956 convention we were committed because of our preferential primary during a presidential year to Senator Kefauver [Estes Kefauver]. Senator Kefauver ran in the presidential preferential primary of that year, and under our law we were committed to Senator Kefauver at that time. During that convention, I recall that Senator Kennedy was a strong contender for the vice presidency. Sargent Shriver came to see me on a few occasion to solicit the support of the Maryland delegation for Senator Kennedy for the vice presidency. At that time, as you know, the picture changed very rapidly. Adlai Stevenson became the nominee for the presidency and Senator Kefauver became the candidate for vice president.

And in 1960 the campaign carried.... The campaign in Maryland was entered by Senator Kennedy and he carried Maryland overwhelmingly against Senator Wayne Morse.

Senator Kennedy and Mrs. Kennedy [Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis] came to Annapolis. They called to advise me that on this particular afternoon they were coming to Annapolis to officially file with our secretary of state as a candidate for the president in the Maryland Primary. We arranged for the press, the news media, to be in the governor's conference room in the State House for a press conference. It was a full dress press conference. Senator and Mrs. Kennedy were very, very friendly. They were interviewed after the press conference was over. It was from that point on that the Kennedy campaign in Maryland moved forward very rapidly and there was really no problem for us here in Maryland to carry the state for him.

We had eighteen votes in the convention. At the convention in Los Angeles our delegation stood steadfast all through the convention in behalf of Senator Kennedy. We campaigned for him. He came to Maryland and he carried the state overwhelmingly. The majority we gave Senator Kennedy was equivalent to the majority he received nationwide, or very close to it. It was the largest majority, I think, a Democratic candidate for president had ever received in Maryland. He was a very popular candidate in Maryland.

HACKMAN: Going back, let's say, from the '56 convention to '60, at what point did he begin to try to build specific support in the state for him as possible candidate? What type of people was he working with in the state?

TAWES: Well, he was working with several of his personal friends. Joe Tydings [Joseph D. Tydings], Jerry Hoffberger [Jerold C. Hoffberger], Carroll Rosenbloom, Phil Goodman [Philip H. Goodman], naming a few prominent political figures in Maryland. Naturally he was conferring with our Democratic congressmen. Our two United States senators at that time were Republican.

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I believe we had in office six Democratic congressmen. He carried very well here in Maryland.

HACKMAN: As 1960 approached, what were your own feelings about the various people who were mentioned as candidates? Symington [Stuart Symington] and Senator Johnson [Lyndon B. Johnson]?

TAWES: Well, of course, Senator Symington was well liked here in Maryland. He was a native Marylander. He had a brother living in Maryland who had considerable influence. In 1960 President Johnson had support in this state. I recall there were several meetings on behalf of Senator Johnson at that particular time. I think they were the only two candidates in 1960 other than Senator Kennedy whose names were really discussed to any extent here in Maryland. Senator Symington invited a small group of us to New York to have lunch with him during the campaign. He requested us to hold ourselves open for further talks in the event that he moved forward with his campaign. I think a few of our delegates went to see him during the convention, but it didn't materialize to any great extent. It was quite evident that Senator Kennedy had enough votes when he went to the convention to make it worthwhile.

HACKMAN: What were your own feelings about Senator Kennedy as a possible national candidate for the presidency? What did you see as being his weak points and his strong points in that period?

TAWES: Well, of course, everyone knew that Senator Kennedy came from a very influential family and he had registered a considerable amount of favorable comment in Washington. He was well known for his energy. He was very knowledgeable in the area of politics, and I don't think there's any question about his determination to do everything that was necessary to achieve the goal he was seeking, the presidency of the United States. As he told us at the previously mentioned dinner in the Executive Mansion, he said, "I must go. I have some strikes against me, and I feel that it is absolutely necessary that I secure as many committed votes prior to the convention as possible in order for the rest of the country to realize that I do have some vote-getting power, some vote-getting ability." When he went to the convention I believe he had committed to his candidacy the number of votes needed to establish him as the leading candidate.

HACKMAN: What had your feeling been back, let's say, in the fall of '59 or early '60 about Senator Kennedy coming into the primary at all?

TAWES: There was considerable feeling, not only on my part,

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but throughout the state. For many presidential campaigns, and because of Maryland's unique presidential preferential primary law, we had been committed to candidates that filed in our state simply because they felt they could carry Maryland. Many of the leading Democrats in our delegation said, "Let's go to the convention without a commitment."

We believed that if we could convey this information to Senator Kennedy, at the same time indicate to him that he would carry Maryland in view of his popularity here.... I, as the governor of the state, had 99 percent of the selection of the delegates. When he came to Maryland we suggested this to him. At the dinner at the Executive Mansion that night every Democratic congressman, attorney general, comptroller, our Democratic national committeeman, every person at that table that night spoke and said to the Senator, "We're for you, but we wish you wouldn't come to Maryland. We'd like to be free at this convention." That's when the Senator, after hearing everyone out, he said, "I must confess to you gentlemen that as much as I enjoy hearing you say you're for me, I need to have these votes committed. Let me come in here and run, and I will carry these eighteen votes to the convention." And he then said, "I must tell you that I'm going to run. I'm going to come to Maryland." There was no real serious opposition to these remarks. When he came to Annapolis to announce his candidacy, I issued a prepared statement and placed myself foursquare for his candidacy. I told him that we would do everything that we could to secure the nomination for him.

HACKMAN: Were any of the other candidates talking to you about -- other than Morse, who I don't know if you'd call him a candidate or not -- but talking to you about coming into the state possibly? Did Symington ever consider it?

TAWES: Oh, yes, Morse came to my office in the State House and told me that he was making a courtesy call. He didn't come to solicit my support; he came to pay his respects and to advise me that he was filing. I believe Senator Symington did not come into Maryland. I do not believe he entered the primary in Maryland that year.

HACKMAN: No, I know he didn't either. I just had thought possibly he had discussed the possibilities with you.

TAWES: I think Morse and Senator Kennedy were the only two candidates.

HACKMAN: Yes. As the primary approached in Maryland, can you recall who of the Kennedy people were working in the

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state and what your reaction was as to how effective these people were?

TAWES: In the primary?

HACKMAN: Yes.

TAWES: Yes, he assigned Joe Curnane from Boston to represent him here during the 1960 campaign.

HACKMAN: Curnane.

TAWES: Curnane.

HACKMAN: Yes. Yes, I remember that.

TAWES: He was the Kennedy representative here in Maryland. We had our campaign headquarters set up by the Democratic state central committee. Our headquarters were located in the Emerson Hotel in Baltimore. It was a good and successful campaign. We had our congressman at that time to nominate and elect in that campaign.

In the general election Joe Curnane came, and stayed here all through the general election and after the convention.

HACKMAN: The reason I asked is because Curnane I know was working with a lot of the politicians over in Baltimore, a lot of people that traditionally didn't get along too well with some of the people who supported you, and I had wondered if this created any problems in the party as far as some of your people?

TAWES: Not to any great extent.

HACKMAN: I think they were also working with Mahoney [George P. Mahoney].

TAWES: That's right.

HACKMAN: And who's the fellow who was mayor of Baltimore?

TAWES: D'Alesandro [Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr.].

HACKMAN: D'Alesandro, yes. Some of those people, Finan [Thomas B. Finan]...

TAWES: I was going to say we had very strong support for Senator Kennedy. I think Jack Pollack would have supported Senator Kennedy anyway, but he's a type

that always plays hard to get. And I think in order to satisfy him they had to take him to Washington several times. He wanted to talk to the candidate. He's that type of individual.

HACKMAN: From where you stood, did you think this fellow, Joe Curnane, I think.... He was from Massachusetts, I guess.

TAWES: He was an undertaker in Massachusetts.

HACKMAN: That's right. That's right. I've heard that. Did he do a pretty effective job of getting all these people together?

TAWES: Oh, yes. I think he did a very effective job. We all worked with him. We worked out of our headquarters.

HACKMAN: Right. Can you remember Torbert MacDonald, Congressman MacDonald, working at all in the state? I heard -- maybe this was very early before Curnane came in -- that he was involved in something.

TAWES: MacDonald? No, I don't. I don't recall ever meeting him.

HACKMAN: Was there any.... There were also.... Let's see. At the time of the primary they had Joe Tydings working for them...

TAWES: In Florida.

HACKMAN: Well, Florida during the campaign.

TAWES: That's right.

HACKMAN: But during the primary.

TAWES: But during the primary. Oh yes, Joe...

HACKMAN: I wonder what people's reaction was to that?

TAWES: Well, all right. At that time Joe, I think, was a member of our House of Delegates, a member of the Maryland Legislature.

HACKMAN: He was a pretty young guy at that time and I heard that some people felt he was pretty inexperienced to be...

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TAWES: He appears to be an eager beaver. He came from a good family, you know,

a name. His father had been a United States senator and his mother was a charming lady. After the president was elected and inaugurated as president, we found him to be very, very friendly. As a matter of fact, it was just about that time that I sponsored a meeting of the Appalachian governors in Annapolis. The Appalachia area, made up of some ten or eleven states, sponsored a program that the governors desired to present to the president. He received the Appalachian governors in the Cabinet Room in the White House. We were very happy to note his enthusiastic support of it. He had initiated the legislation before he was assassinated to make this program the first regional approach to regional problems in the nation. When President Johnson took over following the assassination, it was the first piece of legislation that he signed into law.

HACKMAN: As far as the Appalachian governors, how much of a problem was it to get the whole group to cooperate in working things out in this period? Was there much disagreement among the group, or was...

TAWES: Among the governors?

HACKMAN: Yes.

TAWES: I invited the Appalachian governors to Annapolis and only about six states were represented. Only one governor came, Governor Combs [Bert T. Combs] of Kentucky. He came and other governors sent representatives. This was followed with a meeting or two in Washington. And then we had a meeting in Kentucky. And we had a better attendance of governors at that meeting, and this whole idea was beginning to take shape. We named a committee, and this committee was made up of the members of the staff of the several governors. By the time we went to Washington to see President Kennedy, we were pretty well organized. Since that time we've had the governor of New York come in. Governor Rhodes [James A. Rhodes], he wanted Ohio as a member of the program. The governor of Mississippi was in touch with me many times. He wanted Mississippi to become a part of the Appalachia program because the government had appropriated a billion, two hundred million dollars for this program. There were these very severely underdeveloped areas of the Appalachia region.

HACKMAN: During the Kennedy Administration something like this got started, not that much on a regional basis, but with the Area Redevelopment Administration in the Commerce Department, run by William Batt. Can you remember

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anything about what your opinion was about how well that worked?

TAWES: Well I knew Bill Batt. Bill Batt was on the staff of Governor Lawrence [David L. Lawrence] of New York.

HACKMAN: Pennsylvania.

TAWES: Yes. A few times that we met with regard to this program Bill Batt was there. Bill Batt was very helpful in our Appalachia program. He and a person by the name of Feldman [Myer Feldman], who was on the president's staff.

HACKMAN: Right. Mike Feldman.

TAWES: Mike Feldman. They were very helpful in acquainting the president, because we had many meetings with Bill Batt and Feldman before we got to see President Kennedy.

HACKMAN: What about Governor Hodges [Luther H. Hodges], who was secretary of commerce? Did he take any interest in this at all that you can recall?

TAWES: I don't recall. I don't recall that he did.

HACKMAN: Do you want to talk about some of these other meetings you had with the President?

TAWES: Well, a very interesting.... The President came to the Patterson Park area in Baltimore and spoke in our Fifth Regiment Armory there. The mayor of Baltimore and I greeted him when he arrived and rode in the car with him over to the Armory. It was a very enthusiastic meeting. We have some very fine sixteen millimeter film and a recording of his speech made that night. And then I was invited several times to the White House for breakfast or for lunch with other groups.

In 1960 -- I can't recall -- in 1963 Governor Carvel [Elbert N. Carvel] of Delaware and I had an appointment with President Kennedy in his office at the White House. We went there to invite him to participate in the dedication and a ribbon cutting ceremony of the Northeastern Expressway. It was the first toll highway we had built in Maryland. It was from the Baltimore beltway to the Delaware line. Governor Carvel and his administration cooperated with our administration in Maryland to continue the highway on to the Delaware River Bridge. And we felt that this was a milestone in our highway program by eliminating one of the most dangerous highways we had in Maryland, Route 40. This was the route over which the diplomats from Washington

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to New York and from New York to Washington traveled. We were having considerable problems in that area with the African diplomats. The restaurants along that highway wouldn't serve these diplomats as they would stop to have dinner or to have lunch. I took it upon myself to engage our State Roads Commission in the building of the John F. Kennedy

highway. This was a highway right on through to New York and Washington. We went to the White House to invite him to these ribbon cutting ceremonies.

Governor Carvel and I made great preparations for this event, and he did come, and he spoke that afternoon. Mr. Robert Moses of New York was our principal speaker that afternoon. President Kennedy took Robert Moses back to New York with him in his helicopter following the ceremonies. That was just a few days before his trip to Dallas; that was on the date of November the 14th. The state has changed the name of that highway from the Northeastern Expressway to the John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway. It was accomplished by an act of the legislature of Maryland.

HACKMAN: Let me ask you on this -- you were talking about this whole matter of the African diplomats and Route 40 -- what contacts did you have with either the President or with the administration as a whole on this, Robert Kennedy? What was your impression of the way they handled this or how were they...

TAWES: On Route 40?

HACKMAN: Yes. How were they talking to you about that?

TAWES: Every incident we had on this highway prior to the opening of the new one, the Chief of Protocol, who at that time was Biddle [Angier Biddle Duke], he was in touch with us right away. I met with those restaurant operators. I plead with them and finally we were able to get a small group to relax their rules on serving blacks. In Baltimore County we didn't have any problem.

HACKMAN: Did the President ever talk to you about that personally?

TAWES: No, I don't believe so. I don't recall that he ever did.

HACKMAN: One other thing that came up and this was the whole, over a long period, the problems at Cambridge, Maryland. And I wonder if you can recall what contacts

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you had on that either with the President or with Robert Kennedy in the Justice Department, and what your reactions were to the way they handled this, or tried to handle this whole thing?

TAWES: I assigned the attorney general to Cambridge during the early days of the trouble there. During the course of his stay in Cambridge covering a period of several days, it was suggested that they go to Washington to see Robert Kennedy, who was then the attorney general. I was in Florida attending a governors

conference at the time. General Finan and his staff had two conferences with Robert Kennedy at that time. I didn't have any personal contact with him at all.

HACKMAN: Can you recall at the time the new administration came in in '61, or thorough that winter of '60-'61, did you make any recommendations on appointments or did they consult with you on any appointments that were made?

TAWES: No, I must say that I was not consulted at all. I don't recall ever having been consulted.

HACKMAN: Who did they work...

TAWES: Well, I'd rather not quote any names. A few days after the President was inaugurated, I did go to Washington with Joe Curnane as he and I both were interested in Tommy D'Alesandro, the former mayor of Baltimore, being appointed to the Renegotiation Board. That appointment was made through O'Donnell [Kenneth P. O'Donnell]. What was his first name?

HACKMAN: Kenny O'Donnell.

TAWES: Kenny O'Donnell. Joe Curnane and Tommy D'Alesandro and I had a conference with Kenny O'Donnell, and TOMmy D'Alesandro was appointed.

HACKMAN: I had heard that they listened to Joe Tydings a lot on appointments in Maryland, and I wondered if that was your impression?

TAWES: Well, he was one of the persons that we understand they spoke to. But I must confess that I was not consulted at all.

HACKMAN: I was wondering what your reactions were to some of the appointments that were made. In federal judgeships they appointed, what, Northrup [Edward S. Northrup] and

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Winter [Harrison L. Winter], I believe, to federal judgeships in that period.

TAWES: Well, in the case of Judge Northrup, that judgeship came in to him as a complete surprise. Senator Northrup was interested in another appointment in Washington. Newty Brewer called me one night, told me, he said, "I've got some hot news for you right away." He said, "I just heard that Northrup's not going to get the job he's seeking. They're going to give him a federal judgeship." Now at

that time Northrup was my finance chairman in the Senate. I was sorry to see him go. I was glad to see him receive the judgeship appointment. He's made an outstanding judge.

HACKMAN: What about the other fellow. Winter. Harrison Winter?

TAWES: Well, he's an outstanding attorney. I would have endorsed Harrison Winter.

HACKMAN: After Brewster [Daniel B. Brewster] went in as senator, did they consult with him then? Was this the channel they went through on appointments?

TAWES: I don't know. I've never heard Brewster complain. I thought I had one of the pictures of President Kennedy at the ribbon cutting, but I don't. These are some I found in a file in my office that came from Annapolis the other day. There's a picture of all the Southern governors in San Antonio.

HACKMAN: What year was this, do you remember? It must have been, what, '64, '65?

TAWES: Is there anything on the back that indicates?

HACKMAN: '64. I recognize my old governor, Governor John Dalton. I'm from Missouri originally.

TAWES: Let's see, there's... [Interruption]

HACKMAN: A couple other things. If you can recall at the convention at Los Angeles in '60, what would Maryland have done on a second ballot in Kennedy would not have won on the first. Did you have plans made this far?

TAWES: It depended largely on what the outcome of that first ballot was. If our delegation had felt... I think we would have remained with him. You know, we would have remained with him unless we saw his "stock" going

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down hill. The law in Maryland required our delegation to do so. They must have voted for the man who carried the state on the first ballot, and they were expected to remain with that candidate as long as they felt he had a chance of winning. And if it had been a close vote, of course they would have stayed with Kennedy.

HACKMAN: The reason I ask that is because I had heard that Curnane and some of these other people who were working for Kennedy felt that there was a

real danger that Maryland would go for Johnson on the second ballot. And they felt they had to work with some of the Baltimore people to keep that from happening, Mahoney and some of that crowd up there.

TAWES: No, that's not entirely correct. I was the chairman of the delegation, and I feel that I was pretty close contact with the delegation. Now we had a few members of our delegation meeting with Johnson, but it never at any time concerned me that we had enough in our delegation to switch Johnson. At no time did I believe that would happen because I think that most of our delegates knew that we were committed to President Kennedy and we were going to remain with President Kennedy. Now, for instance, that's exactly what we did in 1956 when President Kennedy was a candidate for vice president. We remained with Senator Kefauver for the vice presidency because we were committed to him for president. There was a strong effort made to move over to Kennedy, but our delegation, as always, felt duty bound to comply with the spirit of the law.

[BEGIN SIDE II, TAPE I]

HACKMAN: Thinking still of '56, Maryland I guess you would call a border state at that point, but why do you think Kennedy was so successful in getting support in the South? Was that mostly anti-Kefauver at that point? He had a lot of delegate support in the South in '56.

TAWES: I know that to be true. I had a very good friend of mine who was a delegate from one of the southern states talk to me about their decision to go for Kennedy. This was a little surprising because he was from a deep Southern state.

HACKMAN: Yeah, that surprised a lot of people. Can you recall who from the Johnson camp was working with the Maryland delegation in these attempts? Did Senator Johnson ever make an appearance himself?

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TAWES: I don't know for sure. I never did talk to him at any time. I had recently had an operation and I wasn't doing a great deal of moving around except when necessary. I remained in my suite in the hotel most of the time. I don't know who the Johnson people talked to but am sure there were some meetings going on.

HACKMAN: Do you remember talking with Senator Kennedy or with Robert Kennedy during the convention, anything particular?

TAWES: No, I think the contact made with Maryland was through Sargent Shriver.

HACKMAN: How effective was he in working with Maryland delegation?

TAWES: He was good. He's well liked in Maryland. He was born in Carroll County here. He has a lot of relatives here now.

HACKMAN: What was your reaction to the selection then of Johnson as vice president, your own and also the Maryland delegation? Was this...

TAWES: Oh, it was a very good thing for us; we were pleased. I don't hesitate to say that I think the combination of Kennedy and Johnson helped the Maryland campaign very well. This combination was good so far as Maryland was concerned.

HACKMAN: There was a famous meeting of Southern governors with Senator Kennedy, I believe the morning after he was nominated, and I don't know if you went to that meeting. I think it was more with the Southerners they felt would be a real problem.

TAWES: I don't know exactly why Maryland is in the Southern Governors Conference, but we are. I was not present at that meeting.

HACKMAN: I didn't think I'd seen your name mentioned in connection with that meeting. Were you surprised that Senator Johnson accepted the vice presidency at that point? A lot of people were.

TAWES: I wouldn't say that I was surprised. I think he's a realist. I think his political experience would dictate that if it was offered to him, that he should accept it.

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HACKMAN: What, in the campaign in Maryland, what did you think the ticket's main problems were; Kennedy's main problems were?

TAWES: Well, at one time there was a lot of talk about the religious aspect, but that didn't play any part at all in the final result. In two campaigns that question has been an issue and it didn't prove to be a handicap at all. In 1938 Herbert O'Connor ran for governor of Maryland. He was a Catholic and no Catholic had ever been elected governor of Maryland. There was a lot of talk, but Governor O'Connor won handily, and he was reelected, and then he was elected to the U.S. Senate. In the Kennedy campaign, there was no financial problem that I can recall. The vote was very good and the Democratic party was well pleased with the result. So I don't know of anything that I can think of except the religious aspect of it and the fact that we had a Republican governor

whose influence in that office might have been very helpful to Nixon, and it didn't prove to be at all.

HACKMAN: Do you think -- well, again Curnane was in the state, but did you think from the Kennedy operations, from what you could see of the Kennedy operation, that they did a good job in Maryland during the campaign?

TAWES: I think so. I don't recall how many times Robert Kennedy came to Maryland. He was here a few times. I remember he was here to speak to the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick -- he spoke at their luncheon. Further, I remember he was here at a Democratic meeting in Baltimore and was well received. But I think Joe Curnane was the man who kept things moving, and we looked to him as a contact man.

HACKMAN: I had heard that just after the convention the Kennedys had planned to let Joe Tydings head the campaign, but that.... And I had heard, I'd seen in one interview that you and others in the state had urged -- well, in effect the reason Joe Tydings went to Florida is because you people would rather have had Curnane since he was so successful in the primary.

TAWES: Well, that's right. We felt that Joe had not had any experience statewide and to send him away where he wasn't known would be much better. We were glad when that arrangement was made. And I think it was good for the President. I think it was good for Joe; it gave him that exposure. And it was good, I think, for Maryland to bring in a man like Joe Curnane. He was well received here. He returns to Maryland quite frequently now.

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HACKMAN: Oh, does he?

TAWES: Yes.

HACKMAN: In a lot of states there were problems between the regular Democratic party organization in the state and all the volunteer efforts the Kennedys would always try to get going in a state. Was that much of a problem in Maryland, that you can remember?

TAWES: No. Maryland usually goes Republican in presidential elections.

HACKMAN: Gee. I hadn't realized that that was so.

TAWES: I think President F.D. Roosevelt carried one time and the success of the Kennedy campaign in '60 was quite phenomenal. It was more than we

expected really. We were all surprised it proved to be so good. There was no friction. There was no real Democratic movement for Nixon. Now in the past we've had Democrats for Eisenhower. One of the men that ran for governor last year, 1966, had endorsed a big ad in the *Sun* [*Baltimore Sun*] newspapers "Democrats for Eisenhower." And at one time the mayor, a Democratic mayor of Baltimore, headed the Democrats for Willkie [Wendell L. Willkie]. And so we've had that problem in the past, but we had no Democrats for Nixon this time in the Kennedy campaign.

HACKMAN: I have seen as a campaign document an announcement that the Kennedy people put out that yourself and Louis Goldstein and Sybert [C. Ferdinand Sybert] -- is it Sybert who is attorney general?

TAWES: Sybert.

HACKMAN: Sybert.

TAWES: Sybert.

HACKMAN: Well, they announced that you people were going to stump the state for the ticket. They made this announcement during the campaign, and I had wondered how particularly this announcement came about? Was this something they had been urging you to do, or how did it develop?

TAWES: No. Now, we were the three elected officers of the state. I was the governor, Goldstein was the comptroller and Sybert was the attorney general. We decided that we would jointly campaign for the ticket. We hired

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a bus, an executive type bus, and we stumped the state from Oakland to Worcester County. We went all over the state in that bus. A very successful effort. We spent a lot of time right on the road in that campaign.

HACKMAN: Can you recall how successful the candidate's own trips into Maryland were? He made that big evening appearance up at Pikesville at the Armory, I believe. He was at Towson.

TAWES: In the campaign?

HACKMAN: Yes.

TAWES: He was very successful. It was a very successful visit here. We had a tremendous crowd there that night.

HACKMAN: And one more thing, and that was, in September of '60 the Southern governors held their conference at Hot Springs. And...

TAWES: Yes, sir. With the governor of Arkansas.

HACKMAN: Right, Governor Faubus [Orval E. Faubus]. And Price Daniel was elected chairman at that point. Can you remember how that came about, or was his election due, sort of a show of force in behalf of the ticket at that point?

TAWES: I don't think so. I don't think that had anything to do with it. The governors are usually elected on a geographical basis. I don't think there was any connection whatever with the campaign that year.

HACKMAN: I know there was a telegram sent. That conference was held, I believe, at the time of the first debate, and there was a telegram that came out of the conference. I think everybody except Ross Barnett endorsed the ticket at that point. I wondered if you remember.

TAWES: Yes, that is correct. The Kennedy-Johnson campaign in Maryland was an exciting and successful exercise in politics in Maryland.

HACKMAN: Well, that's about all the specific questions. Did we cover everything here on the meeting? Let's see.

TAWES: I don't think we need to comment on the various visits and invitations that Mrs. Tawes and I had to the

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White House during the Kennedy years.

HACKMAN: Okay, unless you have any conclusions you want to put down about him as a president or as an individual or anything that comes to mind that you can remember.

TAWES: Well, the memory of my association with the President, of course, will remain with me always. I think the tragedy of his assassination is something this nation will never forget nor overcome. And with our close geographical location to the nation's capital, we here in Maryland had many opportunities to observe the many successes as well as the problems confronting him. The Library [John F. Kennedy Library] and the John F. Kennedy Children's Center in Baltimore adjoining the Johns Hopkins Hospital always will be a reminder of the greatness of this man.

[END OF INTERVIEW]

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